

2006 APEX MOUNTAIN

Tou ve seen them perform outrageously in hillclimbs. You've seen a stock sled with a turbo kick a \$50,000 mod around the block and back again. In September, Keith Wood set an asphalt record of 8-81 seconds in the 1/3 rule at a blistering 100 aiph! John Wheelock set a 500' grass drag record of 4.07 seconds at 150 mph with his 400 hp ProLine/Simmons CPR RX-1. Of course, we're talking about the 2006 lineup. Yamaha's gunning for top dog and you'll see why they just might get there.

Yamaha's departure from the mainstream has been evident for several years. They seemed not to care that the tried & true Mountain Max-come-Viper platform was being left behind by the competition Even though there were strong RXI sales in the trail market, sales of mountain sleds have fallen off sharply for Yamaha. Yamaha claimed they were not building a four stroke machine because they had to. They said they were building a performance four stroke because they could. Seemingly rhetoric at the time, this thought has given way to the 2006 lineup.

The RN-1 has been renamed the 'Apex'. As with the 2005 model, the 2006 Apex introduces many components that shed the weight of its predecessor. Don't get us wrong, the RN-1 is a beavy sled, but it teels light. It is a balanced machine with plenty of power to make up for the added weight of the 4 stroke. It's smooth. There is no tiring vibration typical of most other machines, you feel better at the end of the day. Its throaty sound is very inspiring. It's cleaner, hurns less fuel and is less costly to operate. It will take you further before the engine needs rebuilding.

Awesome sounding on the trail, they're really lun in the deep. Smashing though the powder with the engine running at a comfortable 6,000 rpm, transitioning into steeper and deeper you given the motor ress over 8,000 rpm. The difference here is that you STILL have a fistful of throttle to apply and the motor is barely breathing. It's outle greenel to 10,500 rpm.

ing. It's pulls strongly to 10,500 rpm. Yamaha claims they're within 50 lbs. for half a tank of fuel) of the competitive 2 stroke equivalent machine. We doubt this is exactly the case with the Apex, this claim probably best rests with the Vector. Comparisons still do not take into account the upside of the engine. Pack it with a turbo onto an Apex and you can easily see 200-250 hp without affecting the engine's reliability. All this at reasonably low cost compared to what you'd spend to get similar power from what would then be a less-than-dependable 2 stroke.

Interestingly, this is the first year we've seen Yamaha publish weights in a long time. The Apex Mountain clocks in at 596 lbs. dry. The RS Vector SE with the same 16" track weighs 589 Ris, only 7 fbs lighter. The 15" × 151" × 2" Vector Alimitan Yamaha chams is estimated at 571 fbs, or just 40 Ris, heavier than the 551 fb Womtain Viper with a 144" track

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Yamaha engineers wanted more floatation. So the Apex Mountain and RS Vector SE will share a 16" N 162" - 2.25" profile track with a 5" pirch in fine mountain form. 7 tooth extrevert drivers are standard with the 16" tracked models Extrovert drivers use both the track lugs and windows and require far less track tension. The result is more hp at the track while completely eliminating ratcheting.

Up front, the saddleless plastic mountain ski is standard on all mountain Yamahas. The skis are now "wide and have a nice deep keel - definitely an improvement over previous designs for front floatation and positive steering action. In powder, the snow is directed away from the rider and heaflight moveso than with previous models.

Mountain models come vith first generation front suspension geometry. Shorter A-arms limit suspension travel to 7" (instead of the 9" with gen II) but the ski stance is narrow - it's adjustable from 57.6" to 59.6" (instead of 42.7" with 2nd generation geometry).

The ProMountain rear suspension introduced on 4 stroke models in 2005 is standard on all mountain Yamabas for '06. The 102" track required some design optimization to handle the added stresses and minimize weight. The tails are lightened on the tail ends and tipped up towards the rear to improve trail handling of the mouster track. The ProMountain skid delivers 11.5" of rear tracel.

Yamaha has opted for EPI instead of carburetors with the Apex. EFI brings a modest horsepower gain with significant weight reductions. Industry sources runnour a factory turbo or supercharged Vector is in the works but we'll have to wait for 2007 models at least.

Yaniaha has shaved 2.5 pounds off the Apex crankshaft. This hoss of rotating mass makes for an even more crisp throutle response. Additionally, new comshafts lengthen the intake and exhaust duration. The engine is of a new sleeveless design and a new head with new intake and exhaust ports. Another responsive move Overall, this year's Genesis 150 FI engine weighs 7 lbs. less and puts out 8 additional horsepower than last year's Genesis Extreme. It puts out 150 hp at 10,500 rpm.

The APEX Mountain has a small radiator with an electric fan to achieve a more constant operating environment. The radiator is mounted on the right hand side of the engine cab above the footwell. We wonder why no sleds come standard with ice scratchers.

The 2006 Apex is running a 4-2-1 configuration that is 5% lighter than last

years. The difference comes from using a longer ≠ into 2 fitanium component that reduces the length of the rear 2 into 1 steel piece that weighs more. At last, the Apre exhaust outlets are slasted to the outside. This is good new- for earge transported on the rear carrier rack. Sheathed in model plastic the sydistic carrier has an integrated LPD hollight. It is a strong and versatile design that is suitable for extra gas or supplies of differing shapes. Sleds without the the rear carrier have high miensay LFTs as off the toronel on the sear back.

The Apex tunnel had to be redesigned to accommodate the 10" track. 15 lighter tapered design incorporates a steaght angle for rapid snow evacuation. The running boards have been redesigned to allow for more effective snow evacuation from the running boards and with footwells. With the new talkit seat design Apex riders are also treated to a new undersear storage area.

Yamaha's design efficiency has always been a strong point. Recently, it has taken on highest priority to meet Yamaha's heightened engineering and prodoct development targets. One place this ideology hits the sted can be seen with the integrated distipation and small hood design of the apex. With the integrated design, the hood now weighs less than 2 list. That's a 65% weight reduction over the original RNAI hood.

Rider forward. Yannaha looked elsewhere in the market and found consumers opting for more rider forward and upright positions. The Dehabox II chassis positions the steering column of further forward and 4" higher than last year. The mountain bars extend another a higher than their trail equivalent. The new mountain seat positions the rider 2.5" higher and o" rowards the from of the machine. The upright riding position does take a lot of stress off the ruler's knews and shoulders during a big day

The Apex long list of standard features include electric start, digitally controlled hand & throatic warmers and DC outlet for accessories. Re-designed to fit the new aggressive Apex body work, a raw digital cluster also now functions as a barometer, dual trip meters and a clock. Other instrumentation includes the speedo, tach, fuel level, hand & thumb heater levels, odometer, and lights for water temp, check engine and oil pressure. The display toggles between metric and SAE units of measure.

The Apex windshield design allows for higher hars and does not interfere with the brake lever in tight situations like button hooks or other been-in-the-wrongplace-at-the-wrong-time situations

With the RN-1, Yamaha engineers have pushed the envelope with their 4 stroke designs. Yamaha has now had the time to examine market needs and have dialed in their high performance four stroke sleds to meet that domand.